Striking the right balance

Poly graduate unlocks personal potential with degree programme

He wanted to give himself an edge over other jobseekers. So he decided to further his studies.

Said Mr Mason Lim Zhe Lun, who has a Diploma of Biomedical Sciences from Singapore Polytechnic: “I also wanted to improve myself as a person and increase my knowledge of the biomedical sciences.”

A former polytechnic coursemate and a graduate of the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Medical Bioscience at the East Asia Institute of Management (EASB) introduced Mr Lim to the programme. The degree is awarded by Aston University, UK.

Mr Lim, 24, said: “With local universities needing strict entry requirements as well as a longer study period, I decided to enter the programme.”

Mr Lim, a full-time student who graduated from the programme this year, found that the lecturers at EASB struck the correct balance between encouraging self-directed learning and expanding the core material.

He said: “The lecturers were patient and open to answering questions. They taught us all that they knew passionately and guided us towards solving difficult problems ourselves.

“The lecturers played a large part in reigniting my passion for learning in general, not just for the biomedical sciences. I can now undertake self-directed learning with a more determined spirit.”

Mr Lim singled out two learning platforms provided by Aston University.

They are The Aston Blackboard, the university’s virtual learning environment, and the elibrary (the university’s online library), which allows access to a wide variety of online books and journals.

KEEPING HIM MOTIVATED

Mr Lim credits EASB lecturers such as full-time lecturer Balamurugan Sridahadevi, Assistant Head of School at EASB’s School of Allied Health Sciences, for keeping him motivated in his studies.

He said: “She did an excellent job with her teaching and guidance. Her passion for teaching influenced her students to go the extra mile in their pursuit of higher learning.”

“Also, the friendly competition and cooperation among the classes kept us going despite our personal schedules outside the school.”

Overall, he feels that the programme has moulded him into a better person and unlocked more of his potential.

He said: “I feel like I can do and learn a lot more now compared to a couple of years ago before taking up the programme.

“I can also manage my time better and I am now unafraid to ask questions.”

Mr Lim has started work as a medical technologist with Quest Laboratories and feels that the rigorous standards set by EASB and Aston University have vastly improved the way he thinks and processes information.

He said: “This will be good for my career progression in the long run, as I am sure most companies treasure employees who are able to think well on their feet.”

His advice to polytechnic graduates pursuing a degree course?

“Organise your time so that you have time for daily learning and improvement, and find a job that will help unlock more of your potential.

“Be tenacious. You may get annoyed and impatient while finding a job or seeking new opportunities but hard work and patience will pay off.

“Above all, always seek self-actualisation, discover new hobbies and learn new skills to find out more of who you can be and what you can achieve.”